

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of) Attorney Docket No.: **SUGIY0004**
Akio KAWAMURA) Confirmation No.: 5017
Serial No.: 10/725,508) Group Art Unit: 3761
Filed: December 3, 2003) Examiner: Ginger T. CHAPMAN
For: NO-NEEDLE BLOOD ACCESS) Date: November 22, 2006
DEVICE FOR HEMODIALYSIS)

AMENDMENT (B)

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 22, 2006, Applicants present the following:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments follow the listing of claims and start on page 7.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 8, please amend the paragraph starting on lines 9 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 6, the adapter 54 is made of tube of synthetic resin material such as plastic, etc. and preferably, the diameter of the leading end of the adapter 54 is selected to be slightly smaller than the diameter of each of the through-holes 40d and 42d and the leading end of the adapter 54 is shaped to be slightly convergent to facilitate the insertion of the adapter 54 into each of the through-holes 40d and 42d of the shutters 22 during hemodialysis. Further, the adapter 54 is provided with a stopper 54a for preventing it from being inserted into each of the through-holes 40d and 42d excessively. Furthermore, the adapter 54 is also provided with a locking member 56 for preventing the cannula 52 from being removed during hemodialysis. A leading end of the locking member 56 is provided with a projection 56a for locking in a groove 42e formed in the side surface of the vertical portion 42b of the shutter 42, and the locking member 56 itself is mounted on the adapter 54 by a ring 56a56b. The shutter 40 is also provided at the side surface of the vertical portion 40b with a groove 40e, as shown in FIG. 5.